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LETTER DATED 27 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVERS OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, we have the honour to transmit herewith a joint letter signed by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, H.E. Mr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, President of the Arab Parliamentary Union, concerning the efforts undertaken by the three organizations to find a peaceful and just solution to the Lockerbie crisis (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Hussein HASSOUNA
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
League of Arab States

(Signed) Mokhtar LAMANI
Permanent Observer
Organization of the
Islamic Conference

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter from the President of the Arab Parliamentary Union, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

You are aware that the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the one hand, and the United States of America and the United Kingdom, on the other, concerning the Lockerbie incident, has lasted much too long. This situation has only aggravated the negative repercussions that the crisis had already had on the Libyan people and neighbouring States and peoples, and it has been harmful to the families of the victims.

As part of the efforts to achieve a peaceful and just settlement of the crisis, and bearing in mind the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which deals with the conduct by regional agencies of activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, we have the honour to inform you that the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab Parliamentary Union, have reached the following agreement on the matter:

First: to pursue their efforts to ensure that the Security Council accepts one of the three solutions proposed by the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has accepted as a starting point for settling the crisis, namely:

1. To try the two suspects in a neutral third country to be designated by the Security Council;

2. To try the two suspects at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, in accordance with Scottish law, by two Scottish judges;

3. To establish a criminal court to try the two suspects at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Second: pending a definitive peaceful and just settlement of the crisis based on one of the above-mentioned proposed solutions, we hope that the Security Council will take measures to help mitigate the negative consequences of the air embargo against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by lifting the ban on certain flights carried out by the Libyan authorities, namely:

- Flights of a humanitarian nature (medical evacuations and import of medicines);

- Special flights to transport material assistance provided by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to other countries;

- Individual flights for religious purposes;

- Flights in connection with official missions.

Bearing in mind your important role, we hope that you will do everything in your power to ensure that the Security Council takes action on the above-mentioned proposals and takes the necessary measures to help achieve, in the near future, a just settlement of the crisis.

(Signed) Ahmed Fathi SOROUR
President of the Arab
Parliamentary Union

(Signed) Azeddine LARAKI
Secretary-General of the
Organization of the
Isamic Conference

(Signed) Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Secretary-General of the League
of Arab States